



Reprinted  
January 25, 2019

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## SENATE BILL No. 233

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DIGEST OF SB 233 (Updated January 24, 2019 9:20 am - DI 125)

**Citations Affected:** IC 6-1.1; noncode.

**Synopsis:** Business personal property tax exemption. Increases, from \$20,000 to \$40,000, the acquisition cost threshold for the business personal property tax exemption. Specifies that a taxpayer who is eligible for a personal property tax exemption must include on the taxpayer's personal property tax return: (1) information concerning whether the taxpayer's business personal property within the county is in one location or multiple locations; and (2) an address for the location of the property. Provides that the appropriate county officer designated by the county executive (rather than the assessor, under current law) is responsible for: (1) maintaining data files of the geographic information system characteristics of each parcel in the county as of each assessment date; and (2) submitting those files to the geographic information office of the office of technology. Repeals provisions in current law that allow a county council to impose a local service fee on each person that has exempt business personal property because the business personal property does not exceed the acquisition threshold. Removes outdated provisions.

**Effective:** July 1, 2019.

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**Freeman, Garten, Holdman,  
Messmer, Buchanan, Charbonneau,  
Nieżgodski, Buck, Bassler, Perfect**

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January 3, 2019, read first time and referred to Committee on Tax and Fiscal Policy.  
January 22, 2019, amended, reported favorably — Do Pass.  
January 24, 2019, read second time, amended, ordered engrossed.

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SB 233—LS 6548/DI 134





First Regular Session of the 121st General Assembly (2019)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2018 Regular and Special Session of the General Assembly.

## SENATE BILL No. 233

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A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning  
taxation.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

- 1 SECTION 1. IC 6-1.1-3-7.2, AS AMENDED BY P.L.199-2016,  
2 SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
3 JULY 1, 2019]: Sec. 7.2. (a) This section applies to assessment dates  
4 occurring after December 31, 2015.  
5 (b) As used in this section, "affiliate" means an entity that  
6 effectively controls or is controlled by a taxpayer or is associated with  
7 a taxpayer under common ownership or control, whether by  
8 shareholdings or other means.  
9 (c) As used in this section, "business personal property" means  
10 personal property that:  
11 (1) is otherwise subject to assessment and taxation under this  
12 article;  
13 (2) is used in a trade or business or otherwise held, used, or  
14 consumed in connection with the production of income; and  
15 (3) was:  
16 (A) acquired by the taxpayer in an arms length transaction  
17 from an entity that is not an affiliate of the taxpayer, if the

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1 personal property has been previously used in Indiana before  
2 being placed in service in the county; or

3 (B) acquired in any manner, if the personal property has never  
4 been previously used in Indiana before being placed in service  
5 in the county.

6 The term does not include mobile homes assessed under IC 6-1.1-7,  
7 personal property held as an investment, or personal property that is  
8 assessed under IC 6-1.1-8 and is owned by a public utility subject to  
9 regulation by the Indiana utility regulatory commission. However, the  
10 term does include the personal property of a telephone company or a  
11 communications service provider if that personal property meets the  
12 requirements of subdivisions (1) through (3), regardless of whether that  
13 personal property is assessed under IC 6-1.1-8 and regardless of  
14 whether the telephone company or communications service provider is  
15 subject to regulation by the Indiana utility regulatory commission.

16 (d) Notwithstanding section 7 of this chapter, if the acquisition cost  
17 of a taxpayer's total business personal property in a county is less than  
18 ~~twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000)~~ **forty thousand dollars (\$40,000)**  
19 for that assessment date, the taxpayer's business personal property in  
20 the county for that assessment date is exempt from taxation.

21 (e) ~~Except as provided in subsection (f),~~ A taxpayer that is eligible  
22 for the exemption under this section for an assessment date shall  
23 **indicate include the following information** on the taxpayer's personal  
24 property tax return:

25 **(1) A declaration** that the taxpayer's business personal property  
26 in the county is exempt from property taxation. ~~for the assessment~~  
27 ~~date.~~

28 **(2) Whether the taxpayer's business personal property within**  
29 **the county is in one (1) location or multiple locations.**

30 **(3) An address for the location of the property.**

31 **If the business personal property is in multiple locations within a**  
32 **county, the taxpayer shall provide an address for the location**  
33 **where the sum of acquisition costs for business personal property**  
34 **is greatest. If two (2) or more addresses contain the greatest**  
35 **equivalent sum of acquisition costs for business personal property**  
36 **within a given county, the taxpayer shall choose only one (1)**  
37 **address to list on the return.**

38 (f) For purposes of the January 1, 2016, assessment date, a taxpayer  
39 that is eligible for the exemption under this section may file with the  
40 county assessor before May 17, 2016, a certification of the taxpayer's  
41 eligibility for the exemption under this section instead of indicating the  
42 taxpayer's eligibility for the exemption on the taxpayer's personal



1 property tax return.

2 SECTION 2. IC 6-1.1-3-7.3 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1,  
3 2019]. Sec. 7.3: (a) A county fiscal body may adopt an ordinance to  
4 impose a local service fee on each person that indicates on the person's  
5 personal property tax return or, for purposes of the January 1, 2016,  
6 assessment date; on the person's certification under section 7.2(f) of  
7 this chapter that the person's business personal property in the county  
8 is exempt from taxation under section 7.2 of this chapter for an  
9 assessment date after December 31, 2015.

10 (b) The county fiscal body shall specify the amount of the local  
11 service fee in the ordinance. A local service fee imposed on a person  
12 under this section may not exceed fifty dollars (\$50).

13 (c) A local service fee imposed for an assessment date is due and  
14 payable at the same time that property taxes for that assessment date  
15 are due and payable. A county may collect a delinquent local service  
16 fee in the same manner as delinquent property taxes are collected.

17 (d) The revenue from a local service fee:

18 (1) shall be allocated in the same manner and proportion and at  
19 the same time as property taxes are allocated to each taxing unit  
20 in the county; and

21 (2) may be used by a taxing unit for any lawful purpose of the  
22 taxing unit.

23 SECTION 3. IC 6-1.1-4-25, AS AMENDED BY P.L.203-2016,  
24 SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
25 JULY 1, 2019]: Sec. 25. (a) Each township assessor and each county  
26 assessor shall keep the assessor's reassessment data and records current  
27 by securing the necessary field data and by making changes in the  
28 assessed value of real property as changes occur in the use of the real  
29 property. The township or county assessor's records shall at all times  
30 show the assessed value of real property in accordance with this  
31 chapter. The township assessor shall ensure that the county assessor  
32 has full access to the assessment records maintained by the township  
33 assessor.

34 (b) The township assessor (if any) in a county having a consolidated  
35 city; the county assessor if there are no township assessors in a county  
36 having a consolidated city; or the county assessor in every other county  
37 shall:

38 (1) maintain an electronic data file of:

39 (A) the parcel characteristics and parcel assessments of all  
40 parcels; **and**

41 (B) the personal property return characteristics and  
42 assessments by return; **and**



- 1           ~~(C) the geographic information system characteristics of each~~  
 2           ~~parcel;~~  
 3           for each township in the county as of each assessment date;  
 4           (2) maintain the electronic file in a form that formats the  
 5           information in the file with the standard data, field, and record  
 6           coding required and approved by:  
 7           (A) the legislative services agency; and  
 8           (B) the department of local government finance;  
 9           (3) **before September 1 of each year**, transmit the data in the file  
 10          with respect to the assessment date of **each that year before**  
 11          **October 1 of a year ending before January 1, 2016, and before**  
 12          **September 1 of a year beginning after December 31, 2015, to:**  
 13          (A) the legislative services agency; and  
 14          (B) the department of local government finance. ~~for data~~  
 15          ~~described in subdivision (1)(A) and (1)(B); and~~  
 16          ~~(B) the geographic information office of the office of~~  
 17          ~~technology, for data described in subdivision (1)(C);~~  
 18          **(c) The appropriate county officer, as designated by the county**  
 19          **executive, shall:**  
 20          **(1) maintain an electronic data file of the geographic**  
 21          **information system characteristics of each parcel for each**  
 22          **township in the county as of each assessment date;**  
 23          **(2) maintain the electronic file in a form that formats the**  
 24          **information in the file with the standard data, field, and**  
 25          **record coding required and approved by the office of**  
 26          **technology; and**  
 27          **(3) before September 1 of each year, transmit the data in the**  
 28          **file with respect to the assessment date of that year to the**  
 29          **geographic information office of the office of technology.**  
 30          **(d) An assessor under subsection (b) and an appropriate county**  
 31          **officer under subsection (c) shall do the following:**  
 32          **(1) Transmit the data** in a manner that meets the data export and  
 33          transmission requirements in a standard format, as prescribed by  
 34          the office of technology established by IC 4-13.1-2-1 and  
 35          approved by the legislative services agency. ~~and~~  
 36          ~~(2)~~ **(2) Resubmit the data** in the form and manner required under  
 37          **this subsection (b) or (c)** upon request of the legislative services  
 38          agency, the department of local government finance, or the  
 39          geographic information office of the office of technology, as  
 40          applicable, if data previously submitted under ~~this subsection (b)~~  
 41          **or (c)** does not comply with the requirements of ~~this subsection;~~  
 42          **subsection (b) or (c)**, as determined by the legislative services



1           agency, the department of local government finance, or the  
2           geographic information office of the office of technology, as  
3           applicable.

4           An electronic data file maintained for a particular assessment date may  
5           not be overwritten with data for a subsequent assessment date until a  
6           copy of an electronic data file that preserves the data for the particular  
7           assessment date is archived in the manner prescribed by the office of  
8           technology established by IC 4-13.1-2-1 and approved by the  
9           legislative services agency.

10          SECTION 4. [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2019] (a) **IC 6-1.1-3-7.2, as**  
11          **amended by this act, applies to assessment dates after December**  
12          **31, 2019.**

13          **(b) This SECTION expires June 30, 2022.**



## COMMITTEE REPORT

Madam President: The Senate Committee on Tax and Fiscal Policy, to which was referred Senate Bill No. 233, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the Senate with the recommendation that said bill be AMENDED as follows:

Page 2, delete lines 21 through 25, begin a new paragraph and insert:

"(e) ~~Except as provided in subsection (f);~~ A taxpayer that is eligible for the exemption under this section for an assessment date shall ~~indicate~~ **include the following information** on the taxpayer's personal property tax return:

**(1) A declaration** that the taxpayer's business personal property in the county is exempt from property taxation. ~~for the assessment date.~~

**(2) Whether the taxpayer's business personal property within the county is in one (1) location or multiple locations.**

**(3) An address for the location of the property.**

**If the business personal property is in multiple locations within a county, the taxpayer shall provide an address for the location where the sum of acquisition costs for business personal property is greatest. If two (2) or more addresses contain the greatest equivalent sum of acquisition costs for business personal property within a given county, the taxpayer shall choose only one (1) address to list on the return."**

Page 2, strike lines 26 through 31.

Page 2, between lines 31 and 32, begin a new paragraph and insert:

"SECTION 2. IC 6-1.1-3-7.3 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2019]. Sec. 7.3: (a) A county fiscal body may adopt an ordinance to impose a local service fee on each person that indicates on the person's personal property tax return or, for purposes of the January 1, 2016, assessment date, on the person's certification under section 7.2(f) of this chapter that the person's business personal property in the county is exempt from taxation under section 7.2 of this chapter for an assessment date after December 31, 2015:

(b) The county fiscal body shall specify the amount of the local service fee in the ordinance. A local service fee imposed on a person under this section may not exceed fifty dollars (\$50).

(c) A local service fee imposed for an assessment date is due and payable at the same time that property taxes for that assessment date are due and payable. A county may collect a delinquent local service fee in the same manner as delinquent property taxes are collected.

(d) The revenue from a local service fee:

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- (1) shall be allocated in the same manner and proportion and at the same time as property taxes are allocated to each taxing unit in the county; and
- (2) may be used by a taxing unit for any lawful purpose of the taxing unit.

SECTION 3. IC 6-1.1-4-25, AS AMENDED BY P.L.203-2016, SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2019]: Sec. 25. (a) Each township assessor and each county assessor shall keep the assessor's reassessment data and records current by securing the necessary field data and by making changes in the assessed value of real property as changes occur in the use of the real property. The township or county assessor's records shall at all times show the assessed value of real property in accordance with this chapter. The township assessor shall ensure that the county assessor has full access to the assessment records maintained by the township assessor.

(b) The township assessor (if any) in a county having a consolidated city, the county assessor if there are no township assessors in a county having a consolidated city, or the county assessor in every other county shall:

- (1) maintain an electronic data file of:
  - (A) the parcel characteristics and parcel assessments of all parcels; **and**
  - (B) the personal property return characteristics and assessments by return; **and**
  - ~~(C) the geographic information system characteristics of each parcel;~~
 for each township in the county as of each assessment date;
- (2) maintain the electronic file in a form that formats the information in the file with the standard data, field, and record coding required and approved by:
  - (A) the legislative services agency; and
  - (B) the department of local government finance;
- (3) **before September 1 of each year**, transmit the data in the file with respect to the assessment date of **each that year before October 1 of a year ending before January 1, 2016, and before September 1 of a year beginning after December 31, 2015**; to:
  - (A) the legislative services agency; and
  - (B) the department of local government finance. for data described in subdivision (1)(A) and (1)(B); and**
  - ~~(B) the geographic information office of the office of technology, for data described in subdivision (1)(C);~~



**(c) The appropriate county officer, as designated by the county executive, shall:**

**(1) maintain an electronic data file of the geographic information system characteristics of each parcel for each township in the county as of each assessment date;**

**(2) maintain the electronic file in a form that formats the information in the file with the standard data, field, and record coding required and approved by the office of technology; and**

**(3) before September 1 of each year, transmit the data in the file with respect to the assessment date of that year to the geographic information office of the office of technology.**

**(d) An assessor under subsection (b) and an appropriate county officer under subsection (c) shall do the following:**

**(1) Transmit the data** in a manner that meets the data export and transmission requirements in a standard format, as prescribed by the office of technology established by IC 4-13.1-2-1 and approved by the legislative services agency. ~~and~~

~~(2)~~ **(2)** Resubmit the data in the form and manner required under ~~this subsection (b) or (c)~~ upon request of the legislative services agency, the department of local government finance, or the geographic information office of the office of technology, as applicable, if data previously submitted under ~~this subsection (b) or (c)~~ does not comply with the requirements of ~~this subsection; subsection (b) or (c)~~, as determined by the legislative services agency, the department of local government finance, or the geographic information office of the office of technology, as applicable.

An electronic data file maintained for a particular assessment date may not be overwritten with data for a subsequent assessment date until a copy of an electronic data file that preserves the data for the particular assessment date is archived in the manner prescribed by the office of technology established by IC 4-13.1-2-1 and approved by the legislative services agency.

SECTION 4. IC 6-1.1-37-7, AS AMENDED BY P.L.199-2016, SECTION 3, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2019]: Sec. 7. (a) If a person fails to file a required personal property return on or before the due date, the county auditor shall add a penalty of twenty-five dollars (\$25) to the person's next property tax installment. The county auditor shall also add an additional penalty to the taxes payable by the person if the person fails to file the personal property return within thirty (30) days after the due date. The amount



of the additional penalty is twenty percent (20%) of the taxes finally determined to be due with respect to the personal property which should have been reported on the return.

(b) For purposes of this section, a personal property return is not due until the expiration of any extension period granted by the township or county assessor under IC 6-1.1-3-7(b).

(c) The penalties prescribed under this section do not apply to an individual or the individual's dependents if the individual:

(1) is in the military or naval forces of the United States on the assessment date; and

(2) is covered by the federal Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 501 et seq.) or IC 10-16-20.

(d) If a person subject to IC 6-1.1-3-7(c) fails to include on a personal property return the information, if any, that the department of local government finance requires under IC 6-1.1-3-9 or IC 6-1.1-5-13, the county auditor shall add a penalty to the property tax installment next due for the return. The amount of the penalty is twenty-five dollars (\$25).

(e) If the total assessed value that a person reports on a personal property return is less than the total assessed value that the person is required by law to report and if the amount of the undervaluation exceeds five percent (5%) of the value that should have been reported on the return, then the county auditor shall add a penalty of twenty percent (20%) of the additional taxes finally determined to be due as a result of the undervaluation. The penalty shall be added to the property tax installment next due for the return on which the property was undervalued. If a person has complied with all of the requirements for claiming a deduction, an exemption, or an adjustment for abnormal obsolescence, then the increase in assessed value that results from a denial of the deduction, exemption, or adjustment for abnormal obsolescence is not considered to result from an undervaluation for purposes of this subsection.

~~(f) If a person required by IC 6-1.1-3-7.2(e) to indicate on the taxpayer's personal property tax return or, for purposes of the January 1, 2016, assessment date, on the taxpayer's certification under IC 6-1.1-3-7.2(f) that the taxpayer's business personal property is exempt fails to timely file either the taxpayer's personal property tax return with the indication or, for purposes of the January 1, 2016, assessment date, the certification, the county auditor shall impose a penalty of twenty-five dollars (\$25) that must be paid by the person with the next property tax installment that is collected.~~

**(f) The penalties prescribed under this section do not apply to a**



**person who fails to timely indicate on the taxpayer's personal property tax return that the taxpayer's business personal property is exempt as required by IC 6-1.1-3-7.2(e).**

(g) A penalty is due with an installment under subsection (a), (d), **or** (e) ~~or~~ (f) whether or not an appeal is filed under IC 6-1.1-15-5 with respect to the tax due on that installment."

Renumber all SECTIONS consecutively.

and when so amended that said bill do pass.

(Reference is to SB 233 as introduced.)

HOLDMAN, Chairperson

Committee Vote: Yeas 12, Nays 0.

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SENATE MOTION

Madam President: I move that Senate Bill 233 be amended to read as follows:

Page 5, delete lines 10 through 42.

Page 6, delete lines 1 through 23.

Renumber all SECTIONS consecutively.

(Reference is to SB 233 as printed January 23, 2019.)

FREEMAN

